

HIS

To Hiss. *v. a.* [pīcean, Saxon.]

1. To condemn by hissing; to explode.

Every one will hiss him out of his disgrace. *Esch. xxii. 1.*

Men shall pursue with merited disgrace;

Hiss, clap their hands, and from his country chase. *Sandys.*

She would so shamefully fail in the last act, that, instead of

a plaudite, she would deserve to be hissed off the stage. *More.*

I have seen many successions of men, who have shot them-

selves into the world, some bolting out upon the stage with

vast applause, and others hissed off, and quitting it with dis-

grace. *Dryden.*

Will you venture your all upon a cause, which would be

hissed out of all the courts as ridiculous? *Collier on Duelling.*

2. To procure hisses or disgrace.

Thy mother plays, and I

Play too; but so disgrac'd a part, whose issue

Will hiss me to my grave. *Shaksf. Winter's Tale.*

What's the new-fangled grief?

—That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker,

Each minute teems a new one. *Shakspeare's Macbeth.*

Hiss. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. The voice of a serpent, and of some other animals.

2. Censure; expression of contempt used in theatres.

He heard

On all sides, from innumerable tongues,

A dismal universal hiss, the sound

Of publick scorn! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x.*

Pierce champion fortitude, that knows no fears

Of hisses, blows, or want, or loss of ears. *Pope's Dunciad.*

HIST. *interj.* [Of this word I know not the original: probably

it may be a corruption of *hush*, *hush it*, *hush it*, *hush it*.] An excla-

mation commanding silence.

Hiss! Romeo, hiss! O for a falconer's voice,

To lure this tassel'd gentle back again. *Shaksf. Rom. and Jul.*

Mute silence hiss along!

'Lest Philomel will deign a song,

In her sweetest faddest plight,

Smoothing the rugged brow of night. *Milton.*

Hiss, hiss, says another that stood by, away, doctor; for

here's a whole pack of distals coming. *Swift.*

HISTORIAN. *n. f.* [historicus, Latin; historien, French.] A

writer of facts and events; a writer of history.

What thanks sufficient, or what recompense

Equal, have I to render thee, divine

Historian! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. viii.*

Our country, which has produced writers of the first figure

in every other kind of work, has been very barren in good

historians. *Addison's Freeholder.*

Not added years on years my task could close,

The long historian of my country's woes. *Pope's Odyssey.*

HISTORICAL. *adj.* [historique, Fr. historicus, Latin.]

HISTORICK. *adj.* [from historicus, Latin.]

1. Containing or giving an account of facts and events.

Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you

know the occasion of these several adventures; for the meth-

od of a poet historical is not such as of an historiogra-

pher. *Spenser.*

Here rising bold, the patriot's honest face;

There warriors frowning in historick bras. *Pope.*

2. Suitable or pertaining to history or narrative.

In an historick relation we use terms that are most proper

and best known. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

With equal justice and historick care,

Their laws, their toils, their arms with his compare. *Prior.*

HISTORICALLY. *adv.* [from historick.] In the manner of

history; by way of narration.

The gospels, which are weekly read, do all historically de-

clare something which our Lord Jesus Christ himself either

spoke, did, or suffered in his own person. *Hooker, b. v.*

When that which the word of God doth but deliver histo-

rically, we construe as if it were legally meant, and so urge it

further than we can prove it was intended, do we not add to

the laws of God? *Hooker, b. iii. f. 5.*

After his life has been rather invented than written, I shall

consider him historically as an author, with regard to those

works he has left behind him. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*

TO HISTORIFY. *v. a.* [from history.] To relate; to record

in history.

O, muse, *historify*

Her praise, whose praise to learn your skill hath framed

me. *Sidney, b. i.*

The third age they term historicon; that is, such wherein

matters have been more truly *historified*, and therefore may

be believed. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 6.*

HISTORIOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [historia and graphia; historiographes,

Fr.] An historian; a writer of history.

Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you

know the occasion of these knights several adventures; for the

method of a poet historical is not such as of an historiogra-

pher. *Spenser.*

What poor ideas must strangers conceive of these persons

HIT

who have been famous among us, should they form their no-

tions of them from the writings of those our historiographers?

Addison's Freeholder, No. 35.

I put the journals of all transactions into a strong box, after

the manner of the historiographers of some eastern monarchs,

Arbuthnot's History of John Bull.

HISTORIOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [historia and graphia; historiographes,

Fr.] The art or

employment of an historian.

HISTORY. *n. f.* [historia; historia, Latin; histoire, French.]

1. A narration of events and facts delivered with dignity.

Justly Caesar scorns the poet's lays;

It is to history he trusts for praise. *Pope.*

2. Narration; relation.

The history part lay within a little room. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

What histories of toil could I declare?

But still long-weary'd nature wants repair. *Pope's Odyssey.*

3. The knowledge of facts and events.

History, so far as it relates to the affairs of the Bible, is

necessary to divines. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

HISTORY PICTURE. *n. f.* A picture representing some memorable

event.

The former makes his works resemble a large history picture,

where even the less important figures have some convenient

place. *Pope's Essay on Homer's Battles.*

HISTORIONICAL. *adj.* [from historion, Latin; historion, Fr.]

HISTORIONICK. *adj.* [from historion, Latin; historion, Fr.]

1. Pertaining to the stage; suitable to a player;

becoming a buffoon; theatrical.

HISTORIONICALLY. *adv.* [from historionical.] Theatrically; in

the manner of a buffoon.

TO HIT. *v. a.* [from *ictus*, Latin, *Minshew*, from *hitte*, Danish,

to throw at random, *Junius*.]

1. To strike; to touch with a blow.

When I first saw her I was presently stricken; and I, like a

foolish child, that when any thing *hits* him will strike himself

again upon it, would needs look again, as though I would per-

suade mine eyes that they were deceived. *Sidney, b. ii.*

His confidence shall *hit* him in the teeth, and tell him his

sin and folly. *South's Sermon.*

2. To touch the mark; not to miss.

Is he a god that ever flies the light?

Or naked he, disguis'd in all untruth?

If he be blind, how *hitteth* he so right?

So hard it is to tremble, and not to err, and to *hit* the

mark with a shaking hand. *South's Sermon.*

3. To attain; to reach the point.

Were I but twenty-one,

Your father's image is so *hit* in you,

His very air, that I should call you brother,

As I did him. *Shakspeare's Winter's Tale.*

Search every comment that your care can find,

Some here, some there, may *hit* the poet's mind. *Roscomm.*

Birds learning tunes, and their endeavours to *hit* the notes

right, put it past doubt that they have perception, and retain

ideas, and use them for patterns. *Lake.*

Here's an opportunity to shew how great a bungler my au-

thor is in *hitting* features. *Atterbury.*

4. To strike a ruling passion.

Hail, divinest melancholy!

Whose faintly visage is too bright

To *hit* the sense of human fight. *Milton.*

There you *hit* him: St. Dominick loves charity exceeding-

ly; that argument never fails with him. *Dryd. Spanish Fryar.*

5. To *hit off*. To strike out; to fix or determine luckily.

What prince soever can *hit off* this great secret, need know

no more either for his own safety, or that of the people he

governs. *Temple.*

6. To *hit out*. To perform by good luck.

Having the found of these ancient poets still ringing in his

ears, he mought needs in singing *hit* out some of their tunes.

Spenser's Pastoral.

TO HIT. *v. n.*

1. To clash; to collide.

If bodies be extension alone, how can they move and *hit*

one against another; or what can make distinct surfaces in a

uniform extension? *Lake.*

The bones, teeth, and shells being sustained in the water

with these metallic corpuscles, and the said corpuscles meet-

ing with and *hitting* upon those bodies, become conjoined with

them. *Woodward's Natural History.*

2. To chance luckily; to succeed by accident; not to miss.

Of expectation fails, and most oft there

Where most it promises; and oft it *hits*

Where hope is coldest, and despair most fits. *Shakspeare.*

There is a kind of conveying of effectual and imprinting

passages amongst compliments, which is of singular use, if a

man can *hit* upon it. *Bacon's Essay 53.*

3. To succeed; not to miscarry.

The experiment of binding of thoughts would be diver-

sified, and you are to note whether it *hits* for the most part.

Bacon's Natural History.

But

HIT

But thou bring't valour too and wit, *Hudibras, p. i.*

Two things that seldom fail to *hit*.

This may *hit*, 'tis more than barely possible; for friars have

free admittance into every house. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

All human race would fain be wits,

And millions miss for one that *hits*. *Swift.*

4. To light on.

You've *hit* upon the very strings, which touch'd,

Echoes the found, and jars within my soul;

There lies my grief. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

It is much, if men were from eternity, that they should

not find out the way of writing before that time: sure he

was a fortunate man, who, after men had been eternally so

dull as not to find it out, had the luck at last to *hit* upon

it. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

There's a just medium betwixt eating too much and too lit-

tle; and this dame had *hit* upon't, when the matter was so

ordered that the hen brought her every day an egg. *L'Estr.*

None of them *hit* upon the art. *Addison's Guardian.*

There's but a true and a false prediction in any telling of

fortune; and a man that never *hits* on the right side, cannot be

called a bad guesser, but must miss out of design. *Bentley.*

HIT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. A stroke.

The king hath laid, that in a dozen passes between you and

him, he shall not exceed you three *hits*. *Shaksf. Hamlet.*

So he the fam'd Cilician fencer prais'd,

And at each *hit* with wonder seem'd amaz'd. *Dryd. Juven.*

2. A lucky chance.

Have all his ventures fail'd? What, not one *hit*? *Shak.*

To suppose a watch, by the blind *hits* of chance, to per-

form diversity of orderly motions, without the regulation of

art, this were the more pardonable absurdity. *Glaville.*

If the rule we judge by be uncertain, it is odds but we

shall judge wrong; and if we should judge right, yet it is not

properly skill, but chance; not a true judgment, but a lucky

hit. *South's Sermons.*

But with more lucky *hit* than those

That use to make the stars depose. *Hudibras, p. i.*

The fisherman's waiting, and the lucky *hit* it had in the

conclusion, tells us, that honest endeavours will not fail. *L'Estr.*

These *bits* of words a true poet often finds, without seek-

ing. *Dryden's Dunciad.*

If casual concurrence did the world compose,

And things and hits fortuitous arose,

Then any thing might come from any thing;

For how from chance can constant order spring? *Blackmore.*

If at first he minds his *bits*,

And drinks champagne among the wits,

Five deep he toasts the tow'ring lassies. *Prior.*

TO HIT. *v. n.* [pīcan, Saxon, or *hacer*, French. *Skinner*.]

1. To catch; to move by jerks. I know not where it is used but

in the following passage.

Whoe'er offends, at some unlucky time

Slides in a verse, or *hitches* in a rhyme;

Sacred to ridicule his whole life long,